

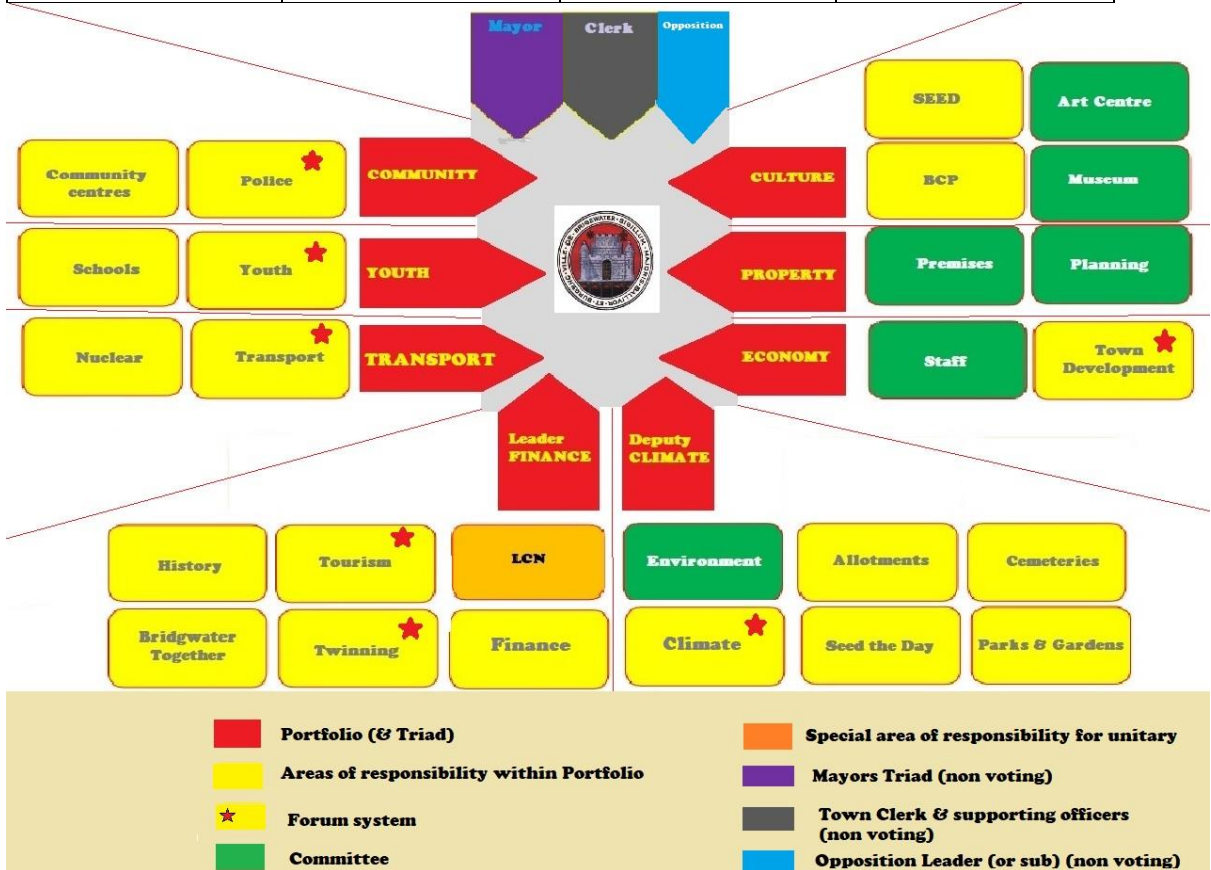
Bridgwater Town Council Leader's Report 7.12.2023

Leader	Brian Smedley
Deputy Leader	Kathy Pearce
Mayor 2023-24	Mick Lerry
Deputy Mayor 2023-24	Jacqui Solomon

FULL COUNCIL 2023-24

At the election in May 2022 the Political balance was 13 Labour and 3 Conservative. At annual council we allocated posts and committees based on this. *During July 2023 Councillor Morgan declared himself to be an Independent and accordingly the current political proportionality is now as below Labour 12 Con 3 Ind 1. Cllr Morgan is not considered as part of a political group as this requires a minimum of 2 members. The sad death of Councillor Glassford means there will be a by-election in Fairfax East. This will take place on 18th December 2023. As soon as we know the new councillor we will re-look at committee places.*

Smedley	Pearce	Lerry	Mander
Leavy	Hubble	Marsh	Redman
vacant	Heywood	Solomon	Loveridge
Morgan	Slocombe	Lilley	Aujla



EXECUTIVE AND PORTFOLIOS

The Policy & Finance Executive consists of the 8 portfolio holders (PFH) from the Ruling Labour Group. Due to Cllr Morgan leaving the Ruling group we have appointed Cllr Loveridge in his place as PFH Transport and Cllr Leavy to the Climate Triad.

TRIADS

The 3 member Triads are a crucial part of sharing the load and having full discussion of a topic or policy. The Triads are formed from Ruling group councillors.

FINANCE	Leader Brian Smedley
Deputy Leader <i>Kathy Pearce</i>	<i>Economy PFH Mick Lerry</i>

The Leader Chairs the P&F Exec. This PFH and triad focus on 5 key areas of HISTORY DAY - TWINNING-TOURISM-BRIDGWATER TOGETHER- LCN.

CLIMATE	Deputy Kathy Pearce
<i>Liz Leavy</i>	<i>Jacqui Solomon</i>

This PFH includes the new ENVIRONMENT committee, which all 3 serve on plus 6 others. Triad also runs the 4 areas covering Allotments, Cemeteries, Seed the Day + Parks&Gardens.

ECONOMY	Mick Lerry
Dave Loveridge	Tony Heywood

This PFH also includes the STAFF brief (the working party includes the Leader & Deputy) The Triad also has input on Town Team, Town Deal, Markets. The brief now includes the Town Development Forum.

PROPERTY	Tim Mander
<i>Leigh Redman</i>	<i>Mick Lerry</i>

Includes chairing the Premises committee and also the Planning committee. The brief will extend to the new buildings that the town takes on as it does.

TRANSPORT	Dave Loveridge
<i>Mick Lerry</i>	<i>Tim Mander</i>

The Transport Forum is a successful self-functioning body with established outside involvement and should continue with more of an environmental drive to it.

CULTURE	Irena Hubble
Liz Leavy	Mick Lerry

This PFH covers not just culture but arts and heritage. The PFH and Triad take shared roles on the BCP and SEED groups in whatever format and on the Art Centre & Museum. One of Triad (Cllr Leavy) chairs the Museum sub ctte

COMMUNITY	Liz Marsh
Tim Mander	Brian Smedley

The main role of this PFH is liaison with our core grant funded community centres – Victoria, Sydenham and Hamp. It should also provide the structure for liaison with the Police plus other community initiatives such as the Community Drop ins (warm rooms) etc

YOUTH	Jacqui Solomon
Irena Hubble	Liz Marsh

The brief of this PFH is maintain and run the Youth Forum plus encourage links from schools.

CIVIC	Mayor	Last Mayor	Next Mayor
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This new civic triad of past, present and future Mayors should meet to plan and discuss mayoral role and functions. It will also be eligible to send a rep as an observer to Exec.

Executive

The Executive is comprised of the 8 Portfolio Holders as voting members. We now include observer status for the Mayoral Triad and for the Conservative Group as a key element of scrutiny and openness. This is in line with the system previously operated by Sedgemoor whereby the portfolios were chosen from the ruling group.

POLICY & FINANCE EXECUTIVE (8 x PFH)

Ch -Leader/Finance	Economy	Culture	Transport
Deputy/Climate	Community	Property	Youth

COMMITTEES

There are several committees which any member of council can be on. Town Council is not bound by politically proportionality rules but if it were, for fairness, then the balance would be as follows for the 29 committee places. As it happens, this is what we have.

Group	Seats	%	Committee seats
Labour	12	75	22
Con	3	18.75	5
Ind	1	6.25	2

ENVIRONMENT

Ch-Pearce	Vc Solomon	Morgan	Lilley
Mander	Loveridge	Hubble	Leavy

PROPERTY

Ch Mander	Vc Redman	Lerry	Smedley	Pearce
vacant	Solomon	Leavy	Lilley	Slocombe

PLANNING

CH- Mander	Vc Lerry	Leavy	Heywood
vacant	Morgan	Loveridge	Solomon
Hubble	Lilley	Aujla	

Management Committees

BLAKE MUSEUM

Ch Leavy	Vc Hubble	Mander
vacant	Loveridge	Slocombe (sub Aujla)

The chair should be a member of the Culture Triad

BRIDGWATER ARTS CENTRE

Hubble	Leavy	Smedley	Mander
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BRIDGWATER ART CENTRE: The 4 BTC delegates are now observers

FORUMS

These are open to ANY member of the council and are organised by the Triad and chaired by one of the Triad members. Forums are open to councillors, relevant groups of experts and members of the public, ideally delegates from organised bodies.

Town Development	Tourism	History	Twinning	Transport
Ch Lerry	Ch Smedley	Ch Smedley	Ch Mayor	Ch Loveridge
Police	Community	Climate		
Ch Smedley	Ch Marsh	Ch Pearce		

LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS

Redman	Smedley	Pearce	Bruce	BTC Tim Mander
Slocombe	Duddridge	Rodrigues	Dingwall	BW Without rep

Bridgwater is Area 8 LCN. The 8 county councillors are automatically on it and both BTC and 'BW Without' have a delegate. *Tim Mander is BTC rep.* At the first meeting of the LCN we challenged procedures as it appeared that anybody who turned up could vote rather than nominated and invited delegates. Currently the LCN chair is Diogo Rodrigues who beat our nomination Cllr Tim Mander by 9 votes to 6 of the people present. At a subsequent meeting we had a re-vote which was 5-5. On this occasion Cllr Rodrigues was elected on a coin toss

OUTSIDE BODIES

Wyndham Lecture Trust	LERRY		
Town Team	LERRY		
Carnival	LEAVY		
BCP	HUBBLE		
SEED (trustee)	LERRY		
Tidal barrier (stakeholders)	LERRY		
Tidal Barrier Enhancement	PEARCE		
Hamp Community Association	REDMAN	LEAVY	
Sydenham Community Centre	MORGAN	vacant	
Victoria Community Centre	LERRY	MARSH	
Bw Memorial Homes	SOLOMON		
Friends of Wembdon rd cem	LILLEY	SLOCOMBE	
Together Team (ONE TEAM)	REDMAN	MARSH	LEAVY
	MORGAN	LOVERIDGE	LILLEY
Kingsdown Pavillion	MORGAN	vacant	
All EDF related bodies	REDMAN	SOLOMON	vacant
	SLOCOMBE	MORGAN	
Brent Marshall	MORGAN		
Allotments	PEARCE		
Bank Signatories	REDMAN	PEARCE	LEAVY
	SMEDLEY		
Parret Drainage Board	LEAVY	MORGAN	

MEETINGS

Meeting	Lead	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan24	Feb	Mar	Apr
Full Council 7pm	Mayor	Thu 11 ANNUAL			Thu 3		Thu 12		Thu 7	Thu 18		Thu 14	Annual town meeting Thu 18
Finance 9.30	Leader			Mon 3		Mon 18		Mon 20			Mon 5		Mon 22
Planning 11am	Cllr Mander	Thur 18	Thur 1 Thur 22	Thur 13	Thur 3 Thur 24	Thur 14	Thur 5 Thur 26	Thur 16	Thur 14	Thur 11	Thur 1 Thur 22	Thur 14	Thur 4 Thur 25
Property 10am	Cllr Mander		Wed 21			Wed 13			Wed 13			Wed 20	
Environment wed 10am	Cllr Pearce		Wed 7	Wed 26			Wed 18			Wed 24		Wed 27	

FORWARD PLAN 2023-2024

Council	Targets	Lead	Committees	Forum
May 11	Annual Council- Structures, roles and placements.	BS		
Aug 3	Twinning Day 1 July Quayside 8 July <i>*Railways & Public Transport urgent review</i>	BS IH ML	Env 7/6 Prop 21/6 Finance 3/7 Env 26/7	Police Youth
Oct 12	Police Forum 16 Aug Seed the Day 9 Sep Bridgwater Fair 27-30 sep (shadowing for 2024) Budget Discussions Oct-Nov <i>*Art Centre Review</i> <i>*Docks Review (public consultation)</i> <i>*Town Deal delivery review</i> <i>*Hamp Recreation works (Sept 23)</i> <i>*Community Drop-in review (Sept)</i>	BS KP TM BS BS TM ML TM LM	Prop 13/9 Finance 18/9	Twinning History Transport
Dec 7	Police Forum 25 Oct Tourism Calendar 31 oct Bridgwater Together 11 Nov Remembrance Day 12 Nov History day 18 Nov Snowflakes 25 Nov Budget proposals 20 Nov <i>*Youth Forum revamp report back</i> <i>*Staffing structure & Job Evaluation review</i> <i>*Economy review</i> <i>*College apprenticeships review</i> <i>*Gravity gigafactory (TDF)</i> <i>*Celebration Mile</i> <i>*Bridgwater Vision</i> <i>*EDF review</i>	BS BS BS ML BS ML BS JS ML ML ML ML ML ML LR	Env 18/10 Finance 20/11	Police Transport Youth TDF (Gravity)
Jan 18	Tourism guide 18 Jan <i>*Budget set 18 Jan</i> <i>*Activating the Town centre update</i> <i>*Town Hall events update</i> <i>*Active Travel/working with BACC review</i>	BS BS ML ML ML	Prop 13/12	
Mar 14	<i>*Properties review</i> <i>- Rollercoaster freehold transfer</i> <i>-Town Hall PV installation/Labour rooms conversion</i> <i>- Art Centre (Town Fund works & Lease issues)</i> <i>*LCN review</i> <i>*LGR review & devolution</i> <i>*Acquisition of speed monitoring</i> <i>*Railway/Bus interchange</i> <i>*Active Travel Day (May 24)</i> <i>*Support plan for local bus services</i> <i>*Market Charter (1st April 24)</i>	TM TM TM TM BS BS DL DL DL DL DL TM	Env 24/1 Finance 5/2	Twinning
Apr 18	Annual Town Meeting- Bridgwater Cup	Mayor		
tbc	Annual Council -review priorities, structures, roles	BS	Prop 20/3 Env 27/3 Finance 22/4	